

**Consideration of the dedication of the Conrad Station Nature Preserve in Newton County**

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 342.34 acre property in northern of Newton County. This nature preserve is located approximately 2.0 miles south of Lake Village, in Indiana's Grand Prairie Natural Region.

The proposed nature preserve primarily consists of a high quality black oak sand savanna and sand prairie; also included is a high quality prairie restoration. The topography consists of rolling sand dunes and sand flats. Savannas are characterized by widely spaced, open-grown trees, with very little woody understory. This creates an openness that allows grasses, sedge, and wildflowers common to sand prairies to be a major component of the flora. Fires are a normal part of the existence of savannas, and they are responsible for maintaining the open character of these natural communities. Prescribed burning will be undertaken by TNC staff to maintain this habitat.

This Nature Preserve physically connects with the 7,200 acre Kankakee Sands and offers direct linkage with Beaver Lake Nature Preserve and Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area contributing to a landscape-size area of protection. A portion of the nature preserve includes the abandoned town of Conrad, originally platted in 1904. Remnant foundations still exist scattered among the black oak trees of the savanna. In association with county historians, a two-mile interpretive trail documents the diversity of the natural communities and the rich cultural heritage of the town.

This tract is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

# Conrad Station Nature Preserve

## Exhibit A

County: Newton  
Size: 342.34 acres

USGS Quad Map: Enos  
Ownership: The Nature Conservancy

